DC

43

HOWARD
BOO
BUSTOS

HARLEY QUINN

PLAYTIME'S OVER

FORGET YOUR ABS! GIVE YOUR BUTT
AN EIGHT-PACK WITH THE RETURN OF
HARLEY THE BARBARIAN
BY ALEXIS QUASARANO AND RICCARDO FEDERICI!

13+
TEEN

AN ALL-OUT BATTLE
FOR THE FUTURE OF THE DC UNIVERSE!

© & ™ DC.

ABSOLUTE POWER #4

DON'T MISS THE GAME-CHANGING FINALE FROM
MARK WAID and DAN MORA
AS A NEW ERA OF JUSTICE BEGINS!

OCTOBER

I'M BACK IN COURT AGAIN.

NOPE, DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TA ME, EITHER.

FEELS **FAMILIAR,** THOUGH.

HARLEEN QUINZEL!

WE KEEP JUDGING YOU AND **NOTHING** IS WORKING.

SQUEAK SQUEAK

WHEN WILL YOU BE NORMAL?!

NORMAL?!

YOUR HONOR, I AM ***TRYIN'!***

I GOT ***ALL THE WAY HERE*** TO COURT TODAY AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW! I GOT ALL DRESSED, AND--

--OH, @#$%, OKAY, I GOT ***HALF-DRESSED--***

SOMETIMES THAT'S ALL I CAN MANAGE!

THIS IS MAYBE A GOOD TIME TO MENTION--

WHY IS EVERYBODY *MAD AT ME?!*

--I BEEN HAVING THESE AWFUL RECURRIN' DREAMS LATELY.

SQUEAK SQUEAK

DAYDREAMS, NIGHT-DREAMS, THEY'RE ALL BAD, AND CAN'T GET'EM OUTTA MY HEAD.

THEY GET WORSE THE MORE **STRESSED OUT** I GET.

WAAAH!

SOMETIMES I START THINKIN' I CAN DREAM THE FUTURE.

YOU CAN'T HELP BUT BREAK THINGS IN ***HALF!***

YOU MADE MY DAUGHTER ***WEIRD!***

YOU'RE SO KOOKY YOU ALMOST ***DESTROYED*** THE MULTIVERSE!

LIKE I GET A NUGGET O' **TRUTH** IN MY NIGHTMARES. AS A **TREAT.**

AND EVERY TIME I SCREW UP, ALL I CAN THINK IS: **I SHOULDA KNOWN.**

LIKE RIGHT NOW--

--WHEN I SCREWED UP BAD ENOUGH TO GET **ROBIN** TURNED INTO A **BOYSICLE** BY **MR. FREEZE.**

ROBIN!

IT'S ALMOST OVER!

THAT ROBIN'S FLOWN ***SOUTH*** FOR THE WINTER.

THAT'S A GOOD ONE! I'M WORKING ON A GOOD ONE ABOUT *ICE CAPS*--

TINI HOWARD SCRIPT
SWEENEY BOO ART + COLORS PGS 3-12,17-22
NATACHA BUSTOS ART + COLORS PGS 1-2,13-16
STEVE WANDS LETTERS SWEENEY BOO COVER
LEIRIX + RICCARDO FEDERICI VARIANT COVERS
NICOLA SCOTT WITH ANNETTE KWOK
ARTIST SPOTLIGHT VARIANT COVER
ABIGAIL LARSON 1:25 VARIANT COVER
JAMES REID ASSISTANT EDITOR
ARIANNA TURTURRO EDITOR
ROB LEVIN GROUP EDITOR
HARLEY QUINN CREATED BY
PAUL DINI AND BRUCE TIMM

--AND ***KNEECAPS!***

HSSSSSS!

STAY ***DISTRACTED*** BY YOUR ***JOKES,*** THEN.

UNHH--!

OKAY, BUDDY, I'M *GONNA* NEED TO TAKE THIS WHILE YOU THAW OUT!

THINK TOASTY THOUGHTS!

LIKE... DRYER-FRESH UNDIES! TANNIN' BEDS!

EVERY SECOND YOU KEEP THAT ICE-ALPHA SAMPLE OUT OF MY NORA'S HANDS...

...YOU JEOPARDIZE THE INTEGRITY OF MY ENTIRE STRUCTURE!

C'MON, CAN'T YOU SEE IT? YOUR WHOLE POWER STRUCTURE BUILT ON AN ***EFFIGY*** OF YOUR WIFE--

--AND THE ***GIFT*** YOU ***GOT FOR HER.***

THAT'S NOT REAL LOVE.

YOU AND YOUR ***WITCH*** OF A WOMAN HAVE ***NO CONCEPT OF TRUE LOVE*** LIKE MY NORA AND I DID!

WATCH IT--

WHAP

--PERHAPS YOU'LL STAY ***DEAD.***

IF YOU WON'T STAY IN ***PRISON,*** HARLEY QUINN--

HEE-HEE, KEEPAWAY--

ROBIN--
WAKE UP--

...

GOOD TALK,
THANKS.

YOU READY
TO CATCH, BIRD-
BUDDY?

YOU
DID YOUR
BEST!

PLEASE, QUINN,
AS A *SCIENTIST*,
IT'S A *ONE OF A*
KIND SAMPLE!

WOOOOOP-WOOP-
WOOP! SLIDEY!

WHAT?!

OH...

WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO MY
ICESCRAPER?!

WHAM

KEEP AT IT, BOYS--THERE ISN'T ANYONE IN THERE WORTH BEING CAREFUL FOR!

WHUHH--OKAY, ROBIN, WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE--

DAMN--!

WHAP

LEAVE THE SAMPLE, QUINN, AND I'LL LET YOU GO.

AFTER YOU BETRAYED ME? I AIN'T GIVIN' YOU @#%#!

YOU DON'T EVEN--WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR IT?

WHAT DO I WANT?

I WANNA ***HELP YA!*** THAT'S ALL I BEEN TRYING TO DO SINCE I AGREED TO WORK WITH YA!

I WANNA USE WHAT I'M GOOD AT TO HELP YA GET OVER NORA AND WHATEVER OTHER FEELIN'S YOU GOT TIED INTA ALL THAT.

I AIN'T EVEN TRYNA STOP YER VILLAINY, SO LONG AS YOU AIN'T DOIN' NOTHIN' TOO OBJECTIONABLE. I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT MAKES YA TICK, AND TALK YA THROUGH THE WORST OF IT! JUST 'CAUSE YOU GOT A GIMMICK DON'T MEAN YOU GOTTA BE IN ***PAIN*** ALL THE TIME!

I'LL GIVE YA THE SAMPLE-- BUT YOU GOTTA COME GET IT.

CHOOSE THAT, CHOOSE YER RESEARCH, YER OWN ***FUTURE AND GOALS,*** OVER A FREAKIN' ICE SCULPTURE OF YER EX-WIFE.

C'MON, ***PLEEEEASE?***

UGHH! I WAS HOPING YOU WOULDN'T--!

HOW DARE YOU TRY AND DIAGNOSE ME, CURE ME...YOU TAKE NORA'S GIFT...

I WILL ALWAYS CHOOSE HER.

THAT'S NOT HER! THAT'S JUST A STATUE--AND SHE'S BREAKING!

FREEZE, NO--

HOOBOY... WITHOUT THE ICE AS A POWER SOURCE--

RRRMMMMMMBBL

--THIS THING IS GONNA MELT! @#%$!

GRRRRMMMMBBL

LOOK OUT-- THE BUILDING'S COMING DOWN!

BOOOOM

ROBIN!

GET THE REFRIGERATED TRUCK--

--THIS IS GONNA BE COMPLICATED.

I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE.

OH GOD. ROBIN. I LET ROBIN--***BATMAN*** IS GONNA--

UP HERE!

YOU'RE ALIVE! ***HOW'D YOU DO THAT?!***

WELL, I ALWAYS HAVE A HANG GLIDER ON ME.

AND THERE'S AN EXOTHERMIC IRON REACTION BUILT INTO THE SUITS I GOT US.

LIKE HAND WARMERS, BUT FOR YOUR WHOLE BODY.

IT TAKES A LITTLE TIME, BUT IT WORKED TO KEEP ME FROM FREEZING TO DEATH IN THERE!

YOU ARE ***SUCH A NERD...***

C'MON, LET'S GET YOU AWAY FROM THE COPS.

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS.

I DON'T *LOVE* QUESTIONS...

NOT ON THE RECEIVING END, YOU DON'T.

I'M JUST *PICKING* ON YOU.

MY EARS WEREN'T FROZEN IN THERE, YOU KNOW. I HEARD YOU TRYING TO TALK TO FREEZE.

YEAH?

IT--*SURPRISED* ME. I NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU LIKE THAT--SOMEONE WITH YOUR OWN CODE, YOUR OWN METHODS.

IT MADE ME, WELL...

...TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY.

...YEAH?!

UH-UHUH.

@$#% MY #@$%#@%! #$@%, FREEZE!

ROBIN, A.K.A. BATMAN *JUNIOR,* TAKES ME *SERIOUSLY,* SO WHO CARES IF YOU DO!

OKAY. THANKS FOR THAT LAST FEELING OF VICTORY BEFORE I END UP IN ARKHAM.

HARLEY, NO--

YOU MAY NOT BE A...***GOOD GUY...*** BUT YOU AREN'T A ***BAD PERSON.*** WE BOTH KNOW THE COPS IN THIS CITY CAN BE ***PRETTY CORRUPT.***

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT ONE HAS AGAINST YOU, BUT I KNOW HOW TO GET ***GREAT*** LAWYERS--

I AIN'T LIKE YOU, GENIUS!

I GOT A ***BIG*** RECORD. I DON'T THINK THE JUDGE IS GONNA BE NICE.

THEN FIND SOMEONE THEY ***WILL*** LISTEN TO, AND ***GET OUT OF HERE!***

IF SHE TAKES YOU DOWN, SHE--AND ***VANDAL SAVAGE***--WILL JUST KEEP COMING AFTER ME, BATMAN...MY WHOLE FAMILY. YOU NEED TO USE WHAT YOU'RE GOOD AT--

ROLLER SKATING? CARD COUNTING? OPENING A ***BRA HOOK*** WITH MY ***TEETH?***

PSYCHOLOGY, DOCTOR.

I WANT HER ALIVE, BUT JUST BARELY!

THIS IS THE GCPD!

THANK GOODNESS! I'VE BEEN WAITING ON YOU! I THINK SEVERAL OF FREEZE'S GOONS ESCAPED!

ASK ME ABOUT THAT DOUBLE DATE LATER, HARLEY.

THIS WAY, OFFICERS-- THIS WAY!

I HAVE TO CHANGE.
SO I SHOULD SHOWER.
I SHOULD FEED THE HYENAS.
TAKE 'EM OUT TO POOP.
I SHOULD EAT, TOO.
IT'S ALL NOISE. I JUST NEED--
--HER.
HEY.
JUST C'MERE.
COPS WERE HERE AGAIN LOOKING FOR YOU. THEY TRIED TO TAKE ME IN BUT I KNOW MY RIGHTS.
SMART GIRL.
IVY, I'M SO SORRY--
I THINK I MIGHT REALLY BE GOING BACK TO ARKHAM THIS TIME.
IF YOU'RE GOING, I'M GOING--
--BUT YOU'RE ***NOT*** GOING. YOU'RE NOT BEATEN YET. NOW REST. I'M NOT GONNA LET THE COPS GET YOU HERE. TELL ME WHAT'S ON YOUR BRILLIANT MIND...
...AND WE WON'T REST UNTIL WE'VE MADE A PLAN OUT OF IT.
I THINK I'VE GOT SOMETHING.

"I'M A FUGITIVE. THE COPS ARE LOOKIN' FOR ME. SO I GOTTA LIE LOW AND JUST FACILITATE, YANNO? ACTIN' CRAZIER AIN'T GONNA HELP ME.

"I STARTED ALL THIS BECAUSE I WANTED TO HELP COSTUMED FREAKS LIKE US.

"SO I CAN'T FORGET ABOUT MY BUDDY ***MAXIE ZEUS***--HE'S STILL IN JAIL AWAITING TRIAL. OFFICER PULASKI IS THE CENTER OF THE WHOLE CASE AGAINST HIM.

"AND PROBABLY...THE UPCOMING CASE AGAINST ***ME.***

"IF I CAN STOP HER SOMEHOW, I CAN GET BOTH OF US A ***MUCH*** EASIER TRIAL."

HELLO, I'M HERE TO SEE ONE A' THE INMATES?

WE'LL HAVE TO SEE IF YOU'RE ON ANYONE'S VISITATION LIST. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

WE'RE OUTSIDE A'GOTHAM COUNTY NOW.

AND I'M USING ALL MY PSYCH DEGREE HERE, BETTING ON WHAT I KNOW ABOUT DONNA PULASKI.

THAT SHE AIN'T NEVER BEEN HERE. THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE.

...DONNA PULASKI. I'M HERE TO SEE...

GOTHAM CITY
IDENTIFICATION CARD
ID 109 918 789
Class ID
PULASKI
DONNA
1029 PAPAYA STREET
GOTHAM CITY, GC 2098
Sex M Height 5" 9 Eyes
DOB 02/10/1990
Expires 4/20/69
E NONE
R NONE
Issued 11/02/2024

...MY *DAUGHTER.*

...

OF COURSE. STUPID OF ME TO THINK IT WOULD ***REALLY*** BE HER.

I'M SORRY. I FIGURED YOU'D STILL HAVE'ER ON THE VISITATION LIST...CAUSE YER THE BIGGER PERSON.

I'M--

HARLEY ***QUINN***. I KNOW. I'D RECOGNIZE YOU ***ANYWHERE.***

I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT YOUR MOM.

NOPE. SHE CAN COME TO ME HERSELF IF SHE NEEDS ME--

NO, NO, LISTEN! I WOULDN'T DO THAT. YOU KNOW A LI'L ABOUT MY PAST, RIGHT?

I KNOW YOU OVERCAME A LOT OF BAD STUFF YOU DIDN'T DESERVE.

YEAH. SO YOU KNOW ABOUT MINE. WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT ***YOURS?***

OKAAAY. UM.

WELL, I WANTED TO HANG WITH MY MOM WHEN I WAS A KID...WHAT LITTLE GIRL DOESN'T? BUT SHE WAS NEVER THE ***HAVING FUN*** TYPE.

"SHE WAS NEVER INTERESTED IN ME WHEN I WAS ***GOOD.*** THAT WAS JUST EXPECTED."

MAAA.

NOT ***NOW,*** BELLS.

MOMMY'S GOTTA CATCH ***BAD GUYS*** AND ***CRAZIES.***

"SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY. ONLY WANTS TO FOCUS ON HOW TO ROOT OUT WHAT'S ***BAD*** INSTEAD OF LOVING WHAT'S GOOD...

"SO I'D GET HER ATTENTION. OR I'D GET OUT OF HER LIFE.

"ONE WAY OR THE OTHER--CRIME WAS GONNA GET ME WHAT I WANTED. AND IT DID."

SHE'S OUT OF MY LIFE.

HERE'S TO THAT. S'OKAY TO BE HAPPY TO BE DONE WITH SOMEONE. I'M NOT OFFERING THERAPY, OR THE HIGH ROAD, OR NOTHIN' LIKE THAT.

THEN WHAT ***ARE*** YOU OFFERING?

JUSTICE.

CAN WE CALL IT ***REVENGE?***

I WOULD ***LOVE*** THAT. ALL YA GOTTA DO--

--IS MAKE A PHONE CALL FOR ME.

TODAY: THE ONGOING LEGAL BATTLE OF GOTHAM CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROFESSOR AND ***COSTUMED PERSONALITY*** HARLEY QUINN.

WHILE THE DEFENDANT HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN INVOLVED IN ***PETTY CRIME,*** THIS REPRESENTS A MUCH LARGER CASE FROM THE CITY ITSELF AGAINST THE CLOWN.

THE CHIEF WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION?

*OFFICER DONNA PULASKI, WHO HAS LED A SPECIAL **ANTI-COSTUMED OFFENDER** TASK FORCE SINCE THE APPOINTMENT OF POLICE COMMISSIONER VANDAL SAVAGE.*

*PULASKI IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE THE CENTER OF THE CASE AGAINST COSTUMED CRIMINAL **MAXIE ZEUS.***

YOU NERVOUS, MY LI'L BUTTON MUSHROOM?

SAY THE WORD, HARLEY, AND WE'LL DO IT THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY. BUST OUT OF HERE AND HIT THE ROAD, JUST YOU AND ME.

I'M A LUCKY WOMAN.

BUT I CAN'T MAKE HER PAY MY TAB.

THIS TIME, IT AIN'T A DREAM.

THIS TIME, IT'S THE NIGHTMARE I BEEN FEARIN' SINCE YOU AND I STARTED TALKING LIKE THIS.

THE PROSECUTION CALLS TO THE STAND--

WAK WAK WAK

--HARLEEN QUINZEL!

...HOLD FOR BOOS...

NO BOOS! THAT'S A NICE SURPRISE.

THIS MAY BE UNCONVENTIONAL, BUT THOSE SUITS OVER THERE ASSURED ME THEY WENT ABOUT IT THE RIGHT WAY.

I GOT MORE TA SAY LATER, BUT FOR NOW, WE'D LIKE TO CALL SOMEONE ***ELSE*** TO THE STAND. A ***SURPRISE WITNESS.***

NOT "WE," HARLEY. YOU AREN'T ON THE LEGAL TEAM.

WE AREN'T SURPRISING ***ANYONE.*** THIS WITNESS AND THEIR EVIDENCE HAVE BEEN ENTERED LEGALLY.

THEIR STAR WITNESS AGAINST ME AIN'T WHO SHE PURPORTS TO BE. SHE'S LIKE ANY OTHER VILLAIN IN THIS CITY. SHE'S GOT AN UNHEALTHY OBSESSION THAT GOES BACK TO ***HER DAUGHTER'S CHILDHOOD.***

WE CALL TO THE STAND--

--BELLA PULASKI, DAUGHTER OF OFFICER DONNA PULASKI.

HARLEY, YOU CANNOT DO THAT.

THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. I'VE PREPARED A STATEMENT.

MY MOTHER IS A HARDWORKING POLICEWOMAN, BUT MY WHOLE LIFE, SHE HAS NEGLECTED ME FOR A DOCUMENTED AND UNHEALTHY OBSESSION WITH CRIME. WHAT SHE NEEDS IS HELP, NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RUNNING A TASK FORCE.

THE GCPD ARE UNKNOWINGLY ENABLING HER.

I WISH I COULD TELL Y'ALL I HUNG ON HER EVERY WORD, BUT I GOT SUCH BAD ATTENTION SPAN PROBLEMS? AND A LINGERIN' CONCUSSION FROM THE FREEZE STUFF.

BUT EVERYONE ELSE DID. SHE WAS GREAT.

DONNA LOOKED LIKE THE SHAME WAS GONNA EAT HER ALIVE. SO SHE DID WHAT WE DO WHEN THE MONSTER WANTS TO EAT US.

--BEHAVIOR WAS WRONG, BUT MY OWN MOTHER FOUGHT FOR STRONGER CHARGES AGAINST ME--INSTEAD OF SUPPORTING ME IN MY TIME OF NEED.

SWING

WE RUN FROM IT.

HEY. IT'S NOT AN ATTACK, JUST SO YOU KNOW.

SHE DESERVES ANOTHER CHANCE, AND YOU NEED A BREAK.

IT'S NOT AN ATTACK, IT JUST HAPPENED TO HIT.

DIRECTLY IN THE REPUTATION. YOU MADE MY PERSONAL BUSINESS PUBLIC AND NOW--

--NOW YER ACCOUNTABLE FOR HOW YOU TREATED ANOTHER ADULT!

BELLA'S NOT JUST YOUR DAUGHTER. SHE'S HER OWN PERSON.

NOT MY VICTIM.

NOT MINE, EITHER.

FIND A THERAPIST, PULASKI.

...BUT DON'T CALL ME.

HEY FOLKS, SORRY ABOUT THAT, THANKS FOR KEEPIN' THE CROWD WARM FOR ME, BELLA.

WERE YA DONE?

YEAH, ACTUALLY, HERE.

HARLEY, AGAIN! UHHH... GO...ON, I GUESS.

OKAY GREAT, THANKS.

WHILE I GOT THE MIC, I WANNA SAY SOME THINGS: JUDGE, I APPRECIATE YA LETTIN' ME WORK OFF SOME A'MY CHARGES WITH SERVICE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

GETTIN' TO TEACH MY STUDENTS WAS THE BEST JOB I ***EVER*** HAD. IT LET ME FALL BACK IN LOVE WITH MY PASSION-- ***BRAINS.***

MUCH AS I LOVE MY STUDENTS, I CAN SEE WHERE I GOT ISSUES WITH UNRELIABILITY THAT MIGHT MAKE ME A BAD ROLE MODEL.

BUT I ASK YA-- WHAT IF ROLE MODELS DON'T ***JUST*** MODEL ***GOOD*** BEHAVIOR? WHAT IF WE'RE ALLOWED TO MESS UP AN' MAKE MISTAKES, AND PART A'WHAT WE ***ROLE MODEL*** IS HOW TO ***SURVIVE THAT STUFF.***

IMAGINE HOW THE WORLD COULD BE IF WE GOT USED TO SEEIN' ALL OUR HEROES FAIL, AND BEIN' TOTALLY COOL ABOUT IT.

I'LL STOP DOIN' CRIMES. EVEN THE ONES I DID BECAUSE I THOUGHT THEY WERE HELPIN'. AND...I'LL STOP TEACHIN', MAYBE I WASN'T SO GOOD AT THAT.

BUT YOU KNOW WHO WOULD BE ***PERFECT*** FOR IT?

MY GOOD BUDDY ***MAXIE ZEUS.*** AND SINCE PULASKI WAS THE CENTER A'THE CASE AGAINST ***HIM...***

ALL CHARGES DISMISSED! FOR MAXIE, TOO, CAN YA BELIEVE IT!

HE'S GOING TO LOVE THAT JOB AT THE COLLEGE.

I THINK I'M GONNA TAKE ONE OF HIS CLASSES WHEN I'M OUT--SHOULD BE JUST A FEW MORE MONTHS!

THANK YOU, BELLA. YOU DESERVE TO BE OUT NOW.

THANKS, HARLEY. I CAN'T WAIT. I'M REALLY INSPIRED BY YOU STILL-- NOW, TO STUDY PSYCHOLOGY.

SHE'S SO COOL.

SHE THINKS YOU'RE COOL.

CAN WE GO HOME?

YES.

CAN WE GET SNACKS FIRST?

OF COURSE.

I MEANT WHAT I SAID ABOUT A CODE WORD: ROAD TRIP.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE STABILITY FOR US. YOU ARE MY STABILITY. ANY DAY WITH YOU, NO MATTER HOW STRANGE, IS ULTIMATELY... A GOOD ONE.

AWW, IVY. WE DON'T NEED TO ESCAPE THE WHOLE CITY. BUT WHEN THINGS COOL DOWN A BIT...

...I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO EGG PULASKI'S CAR.

NEXT: ALL IN WITH HARLEY QUINN!

EVEN SOMEONE AS WILD AND CRAZY AS **HARLEY THE BARBARIAN** NEEDS TO REST FROM TIME TO TIME. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE'LL ALWAYS WAKE UP IN THE SAME PLACE SHE FELL ASLEEP...

ZZzzZZ--

Wake up, Harley. A ***new day*** has begun. We seem to be moving.

mmm... ANOTHER ROUND FOR ME AND THE MAIDEN...

THUNK

What the-- ***SWEET MAIDEN?***

You were dreaming.

TAKE ME BACK! IT'S A ***NIGHTMARE*** BEING TRAPPED WITH YOU, ***FOUL CURSED MALLET.*** HOW DID WE EVEN GET IN HERE?

IRRK

Always predictable, you had one too many drinks and got cocky...

The night before.

"Not only were you caught cheating, but you used **me** as a betting piece..."

"HMPH. THEY WERE JUST ***SORE LOSERS.*** AND I WON YOU BACK, DIDN'T I? STOP COMPLAINING!"

"You were **too drunk** to fight and ended up hiding in a barrel. I thought you didn't fear death..."

Bah! ONLY FOOLS FEAR DEATH. JUST BECAUSE I'VE ***ACCEPTED*** MY FATE DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO ***LIKE*** IT.

NOW ***SHUT UP--*** I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE. I CAN'T FEEL MY ASS.

CREEAAAK

WHY DOES IT SMELL LIKE *LIGHTER FLUID?*

OH...

LADIES...

IN ALL OUR TWO HUNDRED YEARS AT SEA, WE'VE NEVER HAD A *STOWAWAY* BEFORE.

WHAT SHOULD WE *DO* WITH HER?

I COULD MAKE A NECKLACE FROM HER TEETH?

LET'S *GUT HER* LIKE A FISH AND USE HER SKIN FOR A *NEW FLAG!*

I HATE TO DENY SUCH *BEAUTIFUL* WOMEN A GOOD TIME, BUT I'M GONNA HAVE TO *PASS.*

=AHEM=

KLOMP KLOMP

THAT'S ENOUGH. THERE WILL BE NO GUTTING OR SKINNING, AT LEAST NOT OF OUR GUEST OF HONOR, HARLEY THE BARBARIAN. LEGEND HAS IT YOUR *MALLET* IS *CURSED.*

YOU WANT A *DEMONSTRATION* OR SOMETHING?

Ha! NO, NOT QUITE, BUT I DO HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU. FOLLOW ME.

LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE, SHALL WE? ARE YOU HERE LOOKING FOR BOOTY, OR DO YOU WISH TO JOIN THE *GLIMMERFISH?*

I'M NEVER ONE TO SAY NO TO SOMEONE OFFERING ME THEIR *BOOTY.*

Ha! YOU'RE JUST AS ENTERTAINING AS THE STORIES SAY. IT'S GOTTEN A BIT STALE AROUND HERE--WE COULD REALLY USE SOMEONE LIKE YOU ON OUR CREW. I COULD OFFER YOU THE *GREATEST TREASURE* OF ALL...

...IMMORTALITY.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO WE MADE A DEAL WITH A SEA WITCH-- DRINK THE BLOOD OF A KRAKEN AND RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE.

I JUST HAVE TO DRINK SOME BLOOD? SEEMS TOO *EASY.*

AH HA! DRINKING IT ALSO MEANS WE AGREE TO SAIL THE BLACK SEA FOR ALL ETERNITY, KEEPING THE KRAKEN AT BAY AND AWAY FROM OTHERS.

SO IT'S LIKE A NEVER-ENDING FIGHT?

I KNEW YOU'D UNDERSTAND!

KRAKOOM

IT'S BEGUN! TAKE COVER!

AGH!

KRAKEN

GAH! A LITTLE WARNING WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE!

STAND BACK! WE'LL HANDLE THIS!

GET IT OFF OF ME!

LIKE HELL I WILL! TAKE THIS!

HARLEY, NO!

WHAM

ARE WE GOING TO BE OKAY?!

WHAT?! I SEE A MONSTER, I KILL IT.

OUR IMMORTALITY COMES FROM THE BLOOD OF THE KRAKEN. SO IF IT DIES, WE DIE.

THANKFULLY, IT SEEMS LIKE THE KRAKEN IS JUST STUNNED.

THANK THE GODS!

THAT WAS CLOSE.

TAKE THIS.

ONCE YOU DRINK IT, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HUNGER, THIRST, DISEASE-- OR DEATH AGAIN.

WOULDN'T KILLING IT BE THE ULTIMATE WAY OF PROTECTING OTHERS?

BUT THEN WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KEEP HAVING OUR ADVENTURES. NOW, DRINK UP! ONCE YOU JOIN US WE'LL ALL BE ABLE TO SAIL THE SEAS AND FIGHT THE KRAKEN UNTIL THE END OF TIME. WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT?

BOOZE AND FAIR MAIDENS, TO NAME A FEW.

YOU GET USED TO IT. IN FIFTY YEARS, WE'LL GET ONE FULL DAY TO INDULGE IN OUR EARTHLY DESIRES.

FIFTY YEARS?! WHAT'S THE POINT OF LIVING FOREVER IF YOU DON'T GET THE LITTLE PLEASURES THIS WORLD HAS LEFT? SURELY THERE ARE THINGS YOUR CREW MISSES...

I NEVER GOT TO SAY GOODBYE TO MY SISTER BEFORE SHE DIED...

I MISS MY MOM'S COOKING...

THAT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR ETERNITY WITH THE GREATEST PIRATE CREW.

YOU MAY HAVE ONCE BEEN FIERCE PIRATES, BUT NOW YOU'RE JUST COWARDS.

FINE! IT SEEMS YOU'VE MADE YOUR DECISION THEN. YOU WOULD HAVE MADE A LOUSY CREWMEMBER ANYWAY.

I WANT HER OUT OF MY SIGHT.

IT'S OFF TO THE PLANK WITH YE.

GUESS I'M DRAGGING YOU DOWN WITH ME, HUH?

No matter how hard you hit, these souls have already been claimed. As long as the Kraken lives, they cannot be harmed.

SWOOSH

NO!

THUMP

HRRRK

KOOM

KILLING ME ISN'T GOING TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS.

ENOUGH! THIS ENDS NOW...

HARLEY'S RIGHT-- THE ONLY WAY TO TRULY PROTECT OTHERS IS TO TAKE THE KRAKEN DOWN. FOR GOOD. IT SEEMS THE **LOVE** I HAVE FOR YOU AND THE SEA HAS BECOME A **CURSE.** I GUESS I WASN'T READY TO SAY GOODBYE.

WE DON'T **HAVE** TO SAY GOODBYE.

AYE! WHERE YOU GO, WE GO!

HARLEY, GRAB ON!

AYE, AYE!

THIS ENDS NOW!

SHNK

THOOM

SKKR

IT FEELS LIKE A WEIGHT HAS BEEN LIFTED!

SO THIS IS REALLY IT?

THAT WASN'T SO SCARY.

I'VE ALREADY ASKED SO MUCH OF YOU, BUT IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO FOLLOW ME ON ONE LAST ADVENTURE?

I USED TO FEAR DEATH, FEAR LOSING YOU ALL, BUT NOW I SEE THAT THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

WE ARE FREE!

Death comes for us all.

AND I'M TAKING THE TREASURE THE CREW LEFT BEHIND. THEY HAVE NO NEED FOR IT IN THE AFTERLIFE.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO STEER A BOAT?

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SO HAPPY TO SEE THIS DRY WASTELAND AGAIN.

Somewhere out there marks your future grave.

RIGHT. SO, WHERE TO NEXT?

HARLEY the BARBARIAN in Okraken! My Kraken!

words ALEXIS QUASARANO
art RICCARDO FEDERICI
colors ARIF PRIANTO
letters HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU
assistant editor JAMES REID
editor ARIANNA TURTURRO
group editor ROB LEVIN

That's all for the in-continuity dreams of Harley Quinn folks!
--Harley 'Quantum Leap' Quinn

ALL IN

Oversize one-shot flipbook on sale in **OCTOBER**

Darkseid is. **Two universes.**

Darkseid was. **One prophecy.**

IT ALL STARTS IN
DC ALL IN SPECIAL #1

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON • SCOTT SNYDER
DANIEL SAMPERE • WES CRAIG

DC NATION INTERVIEW

SCOTT SNYDER AND JOSHUA WILLIAMSON, WRITERS OF

DC ALL IN SPECIAL #1

This fall, DC goes *ALL IN* with its biggest publishing initiative in years: presenting two distinct narratives that form one colossal story, starting a dynamic and explosive new epic for the World's Greatest Superheroes! It all starts with the *DC All In Special* #1 one-shot flipbook by Scott Snyder, Joshua Williamson, Daniel Sampere, and Wes Craig, where readers will learn the unique circumstances behind the dawn of a new world—the Absolute Universe—and witness a shocking vision of the future of the core DC Universe.

How did the All In initiative take shape?

Scott Snyder: All In is about reminding everybody that comics are where the biggest stories are told, where the characters are reborn and renewed, where the biggest legacy storytelling happens. It's the greatest continuing story in the world.

Joshua Williamson: Whenever somebody tries to do an initiative, they either try to do something brand-new or something that embraces the classic. One of the conversations we were having was, how do we do both? How do we do a new story that introduces brand-new stuff, but really elevates classic pieces that we love?

Snyder: The idea is to create the greatest jumping-on point in many, many years. There is no reboot, but there will be new story arcs beginning in October, and it all starts with *DC All In Special*.

What can fans expect from *DC All In Special*?

Williamson: It's going to be a flipbook. One side, drawn by Daniel Sampere, is going to foucs on what is going on in the current DCU post-*Absolute Power*. You're going to see a lot of this through the eyes of Superman; you'll get to see teases of the new storylines that are coming up. The other side of the story, drawn by Wes Craig, is all from the point of view of Darkseid.

What makes the Absolute Universe different from the core DC Universe?

Snyder: If the main universe is predicated on Superman energy, this universe is founded on Darkseid energy. In this universe, the heroes come up in ways that make them underdogs. They have a lot less of the comfort they have in the main DC Universe. They have to be tougher, they have to be more resourceful, they've got to shine brighter—and it makes them more badass.

DON'T MISS *DC ALL IN SPECIAL* #1, ON SALE IN OCTOBER!

ALL IN

DC COMICS MARIE JAVINS VP – Editor-in-Chief JIM LEE President, Publisher & Chief Creative Officer ANNE DePIES Senior VP & General Manager LARRY BERRY VP – Brand Design & Creative Services DON FALLETTI VP – Manufacturing & Production LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Editorial Programming & Talent Strategy NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP – Publishing & Business Operations NANCY SPEARS VP – Sales & Marketing

HARLEY QUINN 43. November, 2024. Published monthly by DC Comics, 4000 Warner Blvd., Bldg. 700, 2nd Floor, Burbank, CA 91522. GST # is R125921072. Copyright © 2024 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dc.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dc.com/ratings.